

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

THE FOLLOWING LISTING OF CLAIMS WILL REPLACE ALL PRIOR VERSIONS, AND LISTINGS, OF CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION:

1. (Currently Amended) A powder coating composition which comprises a film-forming polymer, a pigment providing a metallic effect, and a stabilising additive which, in a coating formed from the composition on a substrate, inhibits degradation of the metallic pigment in the presence of oxygen and water, wherein the stabilising is added via homogenization and additive comprises a metal phosphate or a metal borate, in an amount of 1-30 wt.% when added to the composition pre-homogenisation or during homogenisation and in an amount of 0.5-10 wt.% when added to the composition by post-blending.

2. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in any one of claims 1, 14, or 26, wherein the metallic pigment is in flake form.

3. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in any one of claims 1, 14 or 26, wherein the metallic pigment comprises aluminium or an aluminium alloy, stainless steel, copper, tin, bronze or brass.

4. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in any one of claims 1, 14, or 26, wherein the metallic pigment is incorporated in the composition by dry blending.

5. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 4, wherein the total proportion of metallic pigment(s) incorporated in the composition by dry blending is in the range of from 0.1 to 10% by weight, based on the weight of the composition without the metallic pigment(s).

6. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in any one of claims 1, 14, or 26, wherein the metallic pigment is incorporated in the

composition before or during homogenisation, especially in the case of a low-shear homogenisation process, and the content of metallic pigment(s) incorporated is in the range of from 0.1 to 50% by weight, based on the total weight of the composition.

7. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 26, wherein the stabilising additive comprises at least one silicate material selected from the group consisting of: (a) materials obtainable by admixture or reaction of silica or a silicate with a compound of a trivalent metal; and (b) naturally occurring or synthetic metal silicates.

8. (Original) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 7, wherein the stabilising additive also includes an oxide selected from zinc oxide, magnesium oxide or silica, preferably zinc oxide.

9. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein the stabilising additive includes an amount of zinc oxide in the range of from 2 to 30% by weight, based on the total weight of the corrosion- inhibiting additive.

10. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 7, wherein the trivalent metal in embodiment (a) is chromium, iron or aluminium.

11. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 7, wherein the silicate in embodiment (b) is a silicate of a trivalent metal.

12. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 7 in which the compound of a trivalent metal in embodiment (a) is a phosphate, fluoride, silicofluoride, chloride, sulphate or alkane carboxylate.

13. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 7, wherein the silica in embodiment (a) is amorphous silica or a precursor thereof.

14. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition which comprises a film-forming polymer, a pigment providing a metallic effect, and a stabilising additive which, in a coating formed from the composition on a substrate, inhibits degradation of the metallic pigment in the presence of oxygen and water, wherein the stabilising additive comprises at least one silicate material selected from the group consisting of: (a) materials obtainable by admixture or reaction of silica or a silicate with a compound of a trivalent metal; and (b) naturally occurring or synthetic metal silicates, wherein the stabilising additive, or a silica or silicate used in embodiment (a), is surface-modified by ion exchange.

15. (Original) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 14, wherein the ions involved in the surface modification are selected from calcium, zinc, cobalt, lead, strontium, lithium, barium and magnesium, especially calcium.

16. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 14, modified in that the stabilising additive comprises, or is derived from, silica or alumina which has been surface-modified as defined in those claims, preferably in combination with zinc oxide.

17. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 7, wherein the ratio of silicon to metal atom is in the range of 0.2 : 1 to 30 : 1.

18. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 1 or 26, wherein the stabilising additive comprises a metal phosphate or a metal borate, the phosphate advantageously being an ortho-phosphate, hydrogen phosphate or polyphosphate.

19. (Original) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 18, wherein the stabilising additive comprises zinc phosphate.

20. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 19, wherein the stabilising additive comprises zinc phosphate modified with zinc molybdate and rendered organophilic by suitable surface treatment.

21. (Original) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 18, wherein the stabilising additive comprises dicalcium phosphate dihydrate.

22. (Original) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 18, wherein the stabilising additive comprises dimagnesium phosphate trihydrate.

23. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in any one of claims 1, 14, or 26, wherein the stabilising additive has a content of stabilising anions, capable of dissolving in the presence of water.

24. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 26, wherein the stabilising additive comprises an inorganic material.

25. (Original) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 24, wherein the stabilising additive is substantially free of material containing organic moieties.

26. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition which comprises a film-forming polymer, a pigment providing a metallic effect, and a stabilising additive which, in a coating formed from the composition on a substrate, inhibits degradation of the metallic pigment in the presence of oxygen and water, wherein at least part of the stabilising additive is incorporated by post-blending.

27. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 26, wherein the proportion of stabilising additive(s) incorporated by post-blending is no more than 7.5% by weight.

28. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in any one of claims 1, 14, or 26, wherein the total content of metallic pigment(s) or other non-film-forming additive(s) incorporated by post-blending does not exceed 10% by weight, based on the weight of the composition without the pigment(s) and additive(s).

29. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in any one of claims 1, 14, or 26, wherein the proportion of stabilising additive(s) incorporated before or during homogenisation of the composition is in the range of from 0.5 to 50% by weight, based on the total weight of the composition.

30. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in any one of claims 1, 14, or 26, wherein the particle size of the or each stabilising additive or component thereof is up to 25 microns.

31. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in any one of claims 1, 14, or 26, wherein the particle size of any zinc oxide included in the stabilising additive is in the range of from 0.1 to 10 microns.

32. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in any one of claims 1, 14, or 26, which is a thermosetting system.

33. (Original) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 32, which incorporates a film-forming polymer selected from carboxy-functional polyester-resins, hydroxy-functional polyester resins, epoxy resins, and functional acrylic resins.

34. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in any one of claims 1, 14, or 26, wherein the metallic pigment is a coated material.

35. (Original) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 34, wherein the coating comprises silica or other inert inorganic material.

36. (Original) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 34, wherein the coating comprises a plastics material.

37. (Original) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 34, wherein the metallic pigment is coated with a colouring agent.

38. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in any one of claims 1, 14, or 26, wherein the metallic pigment is carried in a polymer or plasticiser which is compatible with the film-forming polymer.

39. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in any one of claims 1, 14, or 26, wherein the proportion of film-forming polymer (and curing agent where appropriate) is in the range of from 25 to 99.5% by weight.

40. (Previously Presented) A process for forming a coating on a substrate, in which a composition as claimed in any one of claims 1, 14, or 26, is applied to the substrate by a powder coating process resulting in particles of the composition adhering to the substrate, and forming the adherent particles into a continuous coating over at least part of the substrate.

41. (Previously Presented) A process as claimed in claim 40, wherein no further coating is applied to the coated substrate.

42. (Previously Presented) A coated substrate obtained by a process as claimed in claim 40.

43. (Original) A coated substrate as claimed in claim 42, wherein the substrate is a metal substrate.

44. (Original) A coated substrate as claimed in claim 42, which comprises a non-metallic material.

45. (Original) A coated substrate as claimed in claim 44, which comprises a plastics material, wood, a wood-based product, glass, glass fibre or a composite, ceramic or textile material.

46. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 and 14, wherein the stabilising additive is incorporated by post-blending.

47. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein the range is from 0.1 to 5% by weight.

48. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 27, wherein the proportion is no more than 5% by weight.

49. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 30, wherein the particle size is up to 10 microns.

50. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the metallic pigment is incorporated in the composition before and during homogenisation and the content of the incorporated metallic pigment is in the range of 0.1 to 50% by weight.

51. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 2, wherein the metallic pigment is incorporated in the composition before and during homogenisation and the content of the incorporated metallic pigment is in the range of 0.1 to 50% by weight.

52. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition as claimed in claim 3, wherein the metallic pigment is incorporated in the composition before and during homogenisation and the content of the incorporated metallic pigment is in the range of 0.1 to 50% by weight.